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Giscard Given Warm Reception On Recent State
Visit to Greece

French President Giscard, the first chief of state to pay an official visit to Athens since the fall of the military junta in July 1974, was greeted by enthusiastic crowds, and his activities and statements dominated the Greek media--which in general gave him extremely favorable coverage.

The discussions between French and Greek officials apparently concentrated on four main areas:

- Greek entry into the EC: Giscard stressed that Greece had France's full support.
- Cyprus: Giscard avoided specifics, but he made it clear France would support the Greek cause. French Foreign Minister Sauvagnargues, according to the Greek press, said that the only acceptable solution for Cyprus is a bizonal federation--with a significant reduction in the present Turkish occupied area. The press went on to say that Sauvagnargues will be going to Ankara in November, when he will put pressure on the Turks over Cyprus.
- Economic issues: Giscard indicated a French desire to replace the US as the primary foreign investor in Greece.
- Military assistance: Giscard pledged to continue French arms support and to take "certain initiatives" should Greece find itself in a "very difficult situation." The Greek press interpreted this and other

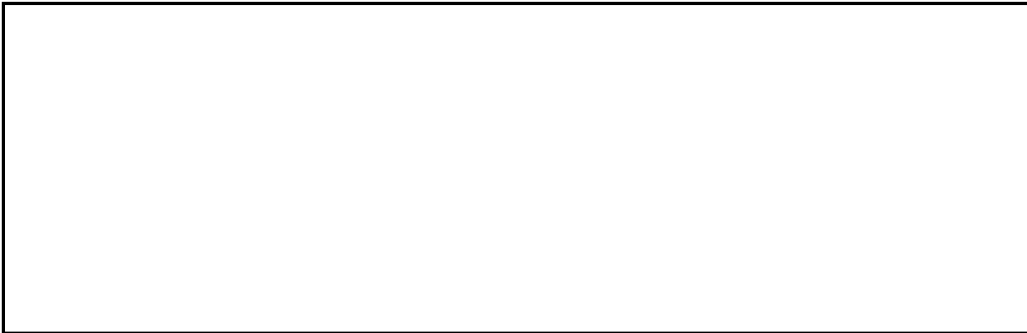
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statements as a full French commitment to stand by Greece in the event of war with Turkey.

The Greek press reported that Giscard promised to accelerate the delivery of military equipment previously ordered from France. Greek Defense Minister Averoff told a US military official that he would be going to Paris soon to follow up on this matter.



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UK Designing New "Mini-Carrier"

The US defense attache in London reports that British industry recently completed design work for a mini-carrier that is not much larger than a modern frigate. The ship, designed by Vosper Thornycroft in consultation with Hawker Siddeley Aviation, would be capable of carrying up to eight Sea King anti-submarine warfare helicopters or eight Harrier V/STOL attack aircraft. It reportedly would have an overall length of 450 feet, a displacement of 6,000 tons, and a complement of only 250 officers and men. The ship would be armed with three twin 40mm guns.

The navy apparently has yet to express its views on the carrier, but the proposal is likely to arouse interest in Whitehall which is looking for ways to reduce defense spending. A British defense correspondent estimated the mini-carrier would cost only one-half to one-third as much as Britain's new "through-deck" anti-submarine warfare cruiser. The mini-carrier would also appear to have good export potential to countries having smaller navies which are interested in having a limited amount of air power at sea.

The navy has asked for three of the larger through-deck cruisers, but the government has committed itself to building only one. These cruisers--which look similar to a small carrier--would be used as command ships, operating as part of task forces containing destroyers and frigates. Each of the 20,000 ton cruisers is designed to carry about 9 Sea King helicopters and 5 Harriers,

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and would be armed with Exocet anti-ship and Sea Dart surface-to-air missiles. Even though the mini-carrier would be less capable and more lightly armed, financial realities may force the British navy to cancel the other two ASW cruisers and build the smaller carriers instead.

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